

REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 7 July 2004. Responsive to the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, and 8 are now amended for further prosecution with the other pending Claims. It is believed that with such amendment of Claims, there is a further clarification of their recitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) for not showing the “first quick-release joint and second quick-release joint” recited in Claim 8. The objection is obviated by the amendments now incorporated into Claim 8.

The Examiner also objected to the Drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) for not showing the check valves (17, 18 mentioned at page 8 of the Specification, for example). Such check valves, however, are in fact clearly shown in the Drawings. Accordingly, the Examiner acknowledged that the objection was set forth in error in a telephone communication with the undersigned Attorney on 22 September 2004. The Examiner in that telephone communication directed the undersigned Attorney to disregard this objection and to note as much in the response.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner found objectionable the word

“divided” in Claims 1 and 8, and the word “firth” in Claim 2. The Examiner stated that a certain use of the term “the” in each of the Claims 1 and 8 was not supported by sufficient antecedent basis.

As mentioned, Claims 1, 2, and 8 are now amended by this Amendment. It is believed that such amendments obviate the Examiner’s formal concerns under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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